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COMET *a* 1921 (REID)

The first comet for this year was discovered by Reid at Capetown, South Africa, on March 13th. At the time of discovery it was reported to be of the ninth magnitude.

Professor Einarsson and the writer computed a preliminary orbit and ephemeris (*H. C. O. Bull. No. 748*) and later a second orbit based on observations of March 14, April 2, and April 21.

The comet made its nearest approach to the Sun on May 9th at a distance of 1.01 astronomical units and its nearest approach to the Earth on April 30th at a distance of 0.63 astronomical units.

During its maximum brightness, the latter part of April and first week of May, it was visible in a one-inch telescope. The comet was photographed by the writer on April 28th with the five and six-inch doublet at the Students' Observatory. A thirty-minute exposure showed no trace of a tail.

The most interesting feature of the comet is its large apparent motion. Since its discovery it has passed thru the following constellations; *Capricornus*, *Aquila*, *Delphinus*, *Vulpecula*, *Cygnus*, *Cepheus* and *Camelopardalus*. During the latter part of May and June it will pass thru *Ursa Major*. During this period it will be visible only in the larger telescopes.

The following are the elements from our second orbit:

$$\begin{aligned} T &= 1921 \text{ May } 9.91876 \text{ G.M.T.} \\ \Omega &= 268^{\circ} 17' 57'' \\ \omega &= 64 \ 24 \ 46 \\ i &= 132 \ 05 \ 40 \\ q &= 1.00895 \end{aligned}$$

An ephemeris to May 20th was telegraphed to the Harvard College Observatory for distribution. An extended ephemeris will be published in the near future. An observation by the writer on May 2nd gave the following residuals for our computed ephemeris:

$$(O-C) \Delta \alpha \cos \delta = +50'' \qquad \Delta \delta = +3'$$

These residuals are considered satisfactory in view of the large motion of the comet.

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